

1 M^{ay} 1934.

Dear Dr. Mather,

In trying to make up my mind on the merits of the different candidates for the posts at the Galton Laboratory, I believe my best plan is to do as I have done in other cases and send a few offprints, which will serve, first as a sample of my interests, and secondly to enable you to take up any point which strikes you as deserving further discussion.

I did not mention that at the same time I expect to appoint an assistant on the mathematical side and, as perhaps you know, that I am a mathematician, rather than a biologist. Although your formal responsibility will only be that of an expert geneticist, I am particularly concerned, in view of the history of the subject in this country, that the work at the Galton Laboratory shall not fall into water-tight compartments, as regards the interchange of interests and ideas. In fact, I feel rather strongly that the work of the place will only be enjoyable, and for that matter will only be scientifically productive, in so far as we refuse to be departmentalised.

The new job can very well be dated from October 1st.

I have for some years kept a small colony of mice, chiefly for the interest of the colour-spotting, a quantitative character, perhaps more susceptible than most to genetic analysis. At the moment I am not doing much with them, except to start introducing the recessive for wavy fur, with a view to making a fairly extensive linkage test of this with four or five other factors, next year. I have one clear spotting factor, in addition to Little's two main factors, and I think it should be possible to sort out one or two others in my material, as it has been bred for some time with this in view.

More recently, owing to getting involved in the Dominance Theory, I have incumbered myself with an experiment with poultry, which looks like finishing as successfully in a year or two. This, however is not at the College. For two or three years I have been breeding snails, which are installed in the lab. here and are certainly of genetical, and probably of cytological, interest. This year I am trying, though with no immediate prospect of success, to breed one of the English grouse locusts (Acrydium kiefferi), I believe it is called, though others are liable to say Tetrix bipunctatus. These, like the snails and the hens, represent an attempt to get some further light on dominance, for, like the snails, they are nicely polymorphic.

I have a photographic studio and dark rooms, with new~~and~~, I think, first class equipment, an animal house, only

partly used, though its further use will need more attendants than I can easily pay^y for, - and a laboratory, partly equipped, including an old high-power Leitz and a good new low-power by the same makers, an autoclave and no incubators, though there is temperature control in the animal house. However, I suppose an incubator will be essential for cytological work.

That is about as much as I can tell you as a substitute for visiting the laboratory. I am very glad you are attracted. Don't hurry about choosing something to say about the off-prints, but I shall probably have to make my choice by the end of May.

Yours sincerely,